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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Letter No. 2307

April 9, 1987

## S. AFRICA CORN FOR EXPORT DOWN

Reports indicate that exportable supplies of South African corn may be about 1 million tons lower than previously estimated due to a poor crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Earlier USDA analysts estimated South Africa would export 2 million 500 thousand tons of corn during the 1986/87 export year. With the level of exporting supplies in doubt, importers such as Japan may focus their purchases on supplies from the United States. In 1985/86, South Africa exported 1 million 400 thousand tons of corn, with about 70 percent going to Japan and about 20 percent to Korea, two major U.S. corn markets.

## ARGENTINE CORN & SORGHUM EXPORTS

Reports of a deteriorating corn crop in Argentina indicate that projected exports of corn in 1986/87 could be as low as 6 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For sorghum, export prospects of about 1 million tons could be the lowest in 20 years, and well below the past 5-year average of 4 million 100 thousand tons. Since Argentina is the second largest exporter of sorghum and corn in the world, the impact of lower supplies on traditional buyers, primarily Japan, Korea, the European Community and the USSR, may benefit the U.S. Already this year Japan and Korea have purchased unusually large quantities of U.S. corn.

## KOREAN CORN IMPORTS MAY INCREASE

Korea's purchase of about 2 million 400 thousand tons of U.S. corn in the past 6 months, close to double last year's total, indicates that imports from the U.S., as well as total Korean corn imports, are set for a dramatic jump, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Estimates from Korea now place corn imports at 4 million 300 thousand tons for 1986/87, with perhaps about 3 million 400 thousand tons coming from the U.S. It appears the Koreans are shifting back to U.S. corn in light of competitive U.S. prices and uncertain supplies from China, Argentina and S. Africa.

## M ON THE RIGHT JAW

All steers imported into the U.S. from Mexico must now be branded with the letter M on the right jaw. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the branding is necessary to improve surveillance for bovine tuberculosis because it provides a permanent way to identify Mexican steers. The brand will be applied before the animals arrive at U.S. ports of entry.

# U.S. FARMLAND VALUES

The values of U.S. farmland declined again last year, but less than in the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On Feb. 1, 1987, the average value per acre stood at \$548, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Values dropped 12 percent in 1985. Real values, which are adjusted for inflation, also declined less than in 1985 because of the low rate of inflation in 1986. Real values fell 10 percent in 1986, compared with 14 percent in 1985.

# EXPIRED CERTIFICATES

The original holders of generic commodity certificates that expired on December 31, 1986 through March 31, 1987, may request that the certificates be exchanged for cash, according to Under Sec'y of Agriculture Daniel Amstutz. To apply for payment, original holders must return expired certificates by May 15, 1987, to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices where they were issued, along with a written request for their exchange for cash. ASCS county committees will review the requests and upon approval, will authorize payment for expired certificates equal to the face value minus 15 percent for handling and another 4.3 percent required by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

# WORLD OILSEED PRODUCTION

The global oilseed production is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 196 million metric tons in 1986/87, but only slightly higher than last year. Declines in U.S. oilseed production could be offset by rising soybean production mostly from South America.

# SOYBEAN ACREAGE TO DECLINE

The soybean acreage in 1987 likely will decline by about 7 percent, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's March survey of planting intentions. Although the soybean loan rate remains high relative to corn, high participation in the feed grain program could prevent much acreage from shifting.

# DAIRY TERMINATION UPDATE

An estimated 7,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Mar. 20 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program through March 20 is an estimated 1 million 40 thousand head.

# USDA MARKET REPORTS GONE ELECTRONIC

The U.S. Department of Agriculture market reports on daily prices and supply and demand estimates for fruits, vegetables, livestock, meat, dairy products, poultry, grain, feed, cotton and tobacco are now available through both USDA's electronic dissemination of information (EDI) service for news media and other information distributors, and its "USDA Online" service. The information will also continue to be available to the public through printed reports and a leased-wire network. For more information, call the EDI representative at (301) 982-6541. For info on USDA Online service, call (202) 488-0550.

# EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR EGGS AND POOPED CHICKENS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng announced that the USDA will conduct a national referendum among egg producers on an advertising, research and consumer education program for eggs and spent fowl. The USDA will send voting information by May 25 to producers eligible to vote in the referendum. The voting will be conducted between May 25 and June 19.



FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

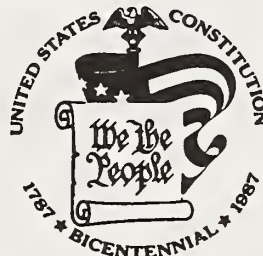
MIDWEST BLIZZARDS AND CATTLE...Recent blizzards in the Midwest have taken their toll and the extent of damage is still unknown. Charles Ball, National Cattlemen's Association, takes a look at the cattle operations lost and the affect on the cattle industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (166)

CURRENT TOBACCO OUTLOOK...USDA economist Verner Grise focuses on the situation for tobacco crop acreage this year as well as factors influencing the forecast for exports. Vic Powell interviews. (167)

CURRENT OILSEED OUTLOOK...A small soybean crop in South America helped U.S. exports earlier this year, but a larger crop is currently being harvested there and may impact U.S. sales abroad. USDA economist Rober Hoskin examines the current outlook for oilseeds. Vic Powell interviews. (168)

CURRENT RICE OUTLOOK...Rice sales have increased, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but plantings are likely to decline. USDA economist Janet Livezey talks about this situation and how it will affect supplies and production. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (169)

PATCH CUTTING...Charles Troendle, Forest Service, focuses on research work being conducted to maximize water output from available sources using various forest management techniques. Vic Powell interviews. (170)



FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1558...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Millions of gallons of toxic waste are thrown away each work...many times improperly. This situation is posing a threat in rural areas. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA George Holmes talks to several experts who recently completed a study at the University of Massachusetts.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1545...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; CCC dairy inventories lower but grain inventories are higher; Sweeteners-corn vs. sugar; Getting into exporting; New strategies for selling to consumers.

CONSUMER TIME #1040...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Confusion and the new tax law; Brown grass; Spring weeds; Sweeteners: Corn vs. sugar; Buying grass seeds.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Apr. 24, Feed outlook; Livestock slaughter report; Mon, Apr. 27, Export markets for U.S. grains; Tues, Apr. 28, Weekly weather and crop outlook report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

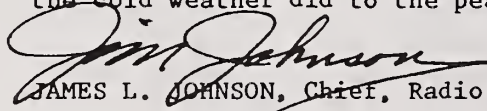
OFF MIKE

Jon Passer, son of Sue and Jerry Passer (WMT, Cedar Rapids, IA), was seriously injured in a vehicle accident in Germany, March 27. He works with the Armed Forces Network. Sue and Jerry immediately flew to Germany to be with Jon, who is improving but remains in serious condition. He was scheduled to be returned to a stateside hospital, April 8, according to Rich Balvanz, Jerry's co-worker at WMT ... We received a couple observations from readers of this world renowned column. Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Marketing Director, Herndon, VA) reported the new folding for the self-mailer newsletter came through the metered mail gizmo in fine shape (no torn corners or rumpled pages). He also said all NAFB golfers will note well what we said about needing a tram ride at the Gatlinburg, TN, NAFB regional meeting to find their errant shots. Sounded kinda ominous when you think about it. Also, we heard from Ovid Bay (Head of Extension Service information here in D.C.) who needed us gently for our comment about

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Cindy and Chuck Zimmerman's "new" baby girl. Obie's comment: "Would an "old" one be at a discount?" Once an editor, always an editor, that's for sure ... We thought we were through with the snow horror stories (and we won't even speculate on those coming out of Kansas and Nebraska), be a couple more "hasn't this been a weird weather year" incidences cropped up. For one thing we got more snow here and enough is enough! For another we were talking with Bob Ratliff (Progressive Farmer Net, Starkville, MS) and they were experiencing 3-inches of snow at the time (April 3). And even if it was melting fast, that's unusual. And we won't even talk about Georgia and what the cold weather did to the peaches!!



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division